A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, June 20. 1706.

WELL Gentlemen! in the midst of all our foreign News, and the glorious Things done for *England* abroad; what if we should divert you with a little Home News for a while, till more Towns and Countries fall into our Hands to renew our publick Rejoicings?

We have been told by some People, as is already noted, that *the Victories of the Duke of* Marlborough *are good News for the Nation, but bad News for the Church.* Now I'll tell you upon a little News, that is good for the Church—And as for my Text,

You shall find it written in the first Column on the second side of the *Daily Courant*, N° ——*June* 18, 1706. "Towards "the Defraying the Charge of repairing and fiting up the Chappel in *Russel-Court*, "At the Theatre Royal in *Drury-Lane*, "this present *Tuesday* being the 18*th.* of "*June*, will be presented the Tragedy of "*Hamlet* Prince of *Denemark*, with singing by Mr. *Hughes*, &c. and Entertainment of Dancing by Monsieur *Cherrier*, "Miss *Santlow* his Scholar, and Mr. *Evans* "Boxes 5 *s.* Pitt 3 *s.* first Gallery 2 *s.* "upper Gallery 1 *s.*

From whence I offer this Observation to the serious Thoughts of those Gentlemen, who are apprehensive of the Churches Danger, *viz.*

If the D—l *be come over to us*, and assists *to support the Church*; The D—l must be in it, *if the Church be in Danger.*

And here Gentlemen, let us make a few Remarks upon this worthy Subject.

Certainly you Gentlemen of the High Church show very little Respect to the Church,

Church, and cannot be ſuch Friends to its Eſtabliſhment, as you pretend to be; ſince tho' you have the Houſe built to your Hands; for this Chapel was before a *Diſſenting Meeting-houſe*; yet you muſt go a begging to the *Play-houſe* to carry on the work.

Or is th isa general Banter upon the Church; that People muſt be invited to go to the Brink of the Gulph, by the religious Arguments of its being for the Church; as if the Lady that now gives 5 *s.* towards the repairing Church, would not contribute the Money, unleſs ſhe could ſee a Play into the Bargain? or on the other Hand, as as if there were not Farce enough acted upon that Stage, the Pulpit, but the Hearers muſt be ſent to the Theatre to make it up.

Some gueſs rather, this may be a religious Wheedle to form an Excuſe for the Ladies, and juſtifie their ſo frequent Viſits to the Theatre; ſince the Money being thus diſpos'd, they gratifie their Vanity, and fanſie, they ſhow their Piety both together, pleaſe their Vice, and ſmuggle their Conſciences; ſomething like that old Zeal of robbing Orphans to build Alms-Houſes.

Hard times, Gentlemen, hard times theſe are indeed with the Church, to ſend her to the *Play-houſe* to gather *Pew-Money*. For ſhame, Gentlemen, go to the Church, and pay your Mony there; and never let the *Play-houſe* have ſuch a Claim to its Eſtabliſhment, as to ſay the Church is beholden to her.

See, *Tempora Mutantur*, Times are finely chang'd; in the late Reigns, the Church built the *Play-houſes*; and now the *Play-Houſe* builds the Church; from whence I cannot but propheſie, the time will come, either the Church will pull down the *Play-Houſe*, or the *Play-Houſe* will pull down the Church.

Now, Mr. *Leſley*, have at the Diſſenters; for if they do not come to this Play, they are certainly Enemies to the Church, put their Negative upon repairing and fiting up the Church; which by Mr *Leſly*'s uſual Logick, may eaſily be prov'd to be pulling down the Church.

Now, Mr. *Collier*, you are quite a ground, and all your Sarcaſms upon the *Play-Houſe*, all your Satyrs upon the Stage, are as ſo many Arrows ſhot at the Church; for every Convert of your making, every one, you have been the means of keeping from the Church, has ſo far leſſen'd the Church Stock, and tended to let the Church fall upon our Heads. Never talk of the Stage any more; for if the Church cannot be repaired nor fited up without the *Play-Houſe*, to write againſt the *Play-Houſe*, is to write againſt the Church; to diſcourage the *Play-Houſe*, is to weaken the Church; and you rob the Church of the Peoples Bounty, which is one of the worſt Sorts of Sacrilege.

Nor is it unworthy our Remark to ſee; how all Hands aloft are zealous in their calling for the Church, can our Church be in Danger! how is it poſſible? The whole Nation is ſollicitous, and at work for her Safety and Proſperity; the Parliament addreſs, the QUEEN conſults, the Miniſtry execute, the Armies fight, and *all for the Church*; but at home we have other Heroes that act for the Church. *Peggy Hughes* ſings, Monſieur *Ramandon* playes, Miſs *Santlow* dances, Monſieur *Cherrier* teaches, and all for the Church; Here's heavenly Doings! Here's Harmony! Your ſinging of Pſalms is *Hurdy Gurdy* to this Muſick; and all your preaching Actors are Fools to theſe. —Beſides there's another ſort of Muſick here, the Caſe is alter'd, the Clergy preach and read here, *&c.* and get Money for it of the Church; but theſe ſing and dance, and act, and talk baudy, and the Church gets Money by the Bargain; there's the Muſick of it!

But to talk more ſerious; Pray let us put things a little upon the ſquare; the great Law of Retaliation comes in here, and as the Play-houſe owes its Original and Advancement to our late Great Champions of High-Church; they can do no leſs than Reverence their Founders, and Relieve them in the preſent ſtreightneſs of their Circumſtances; and again in their turn, ſuppoſe the *Play-houſe* ſhould be burnt down as it once was, the Church could not deny to Read a Brief in every Pariſh for the Rebuilding it; with a *Pray remember the great Loſs by Fire!*

But pray let us enquire here, how comes the

Chappel in *Ruſſel-Court* to ſtand in ſuch ill Circumſtances, that the *Play-houſe* muſt be call'd upon for this odd, and moſt unuſual Charity, ſome horrible Scandal muſt lye ſomewhere.

'Tis plain, the Chappel was Mr. *Daniel Burgeſſes* Meeting-Houſe before, and as the Auditory is large, the Perſons concern'd Numerous and Able, whence comes this deficiency; it muſt be from want of Sence of the Convenience, or want of regard to the Church; 'tis a moſt Scandalous Contempt of the Church; What, ſend her a begging to the PLAY-HOUSE! of all the Churches in the World, I believe none was ever ſerv'd thus before.

What a Reproach is this to the Neighbourhood of *Ruſſel-Court* Chappel; What, Gentlemen, no body to Repair the Church for you, but thoſe that are every Day reprov'd in it? Muſt the Play-houſe Boxes build your Pews, the Play-houſe Pitt raiſe your Gallery? This is the ready way to have the People call them both Play-houſes, and that, tho' they have different Places to Officiate in, they are but the ſame Congregation?

Charity would fain crowd in here, and ſay in behalf of this Action, that the Play-houſe is Reform'd, and that it goes hand in hand with the Church, and is a true Friend to it, as now appears.

I do not know, I confeſs but the *Play-houſe* may in ſome things conform to the Church, but I hope the Church does in nothing go Hand in Hand with the *Play houſe*.

Well, 'tis very Unhappy, that no manner of Contribution could have been rais'd, but This, for the building a Church; 'tis like the *Italians* laying a Tax upon their Baudy Houſes; in ſhort, this Contribution is but a Civil taking out a Licence for Play-houſes, and they may now claim fairly a Liberty, and Tax you with Ingratitude, if you refuſe them.

It would be worth Inquiry now, how the Play fills ——— The Players are very familiar with their Maker here methinks, and Religion comes in like the Poet for a third Day. Now 'tis obſervable, that the reſpect to the Poet is ſhown by the Crowds on the Poets Day; if there be a full Houſe then, 'tis a Signal of his Reputation, and tells the World, what a Value they put upon his performance. The 18*th.* of *June*, is the Churches third Day at the Play—Now, Gentlemen, we ſhall ſee what Reputation Religion has among our Play-hunters, and whether they value her above common Poets, or no?

I am afraid Religion and the Church will have but a poor day of it; on the other hand, here will be room for ſtrange Diſtinctions.

Firſt, here you will ſee who are the beſt Churchmen, High or Low; for, are the Players High-Church, *as moſt allow if they are of any Church at all*, then a full, or a thin Houſe determines, who are beſt Friends to the Church.

But then here is another Misfortune, and I would have the Ladies very careful, how they brand themſelves with this Scandal of it ——— They that go to this Play for the ſake of the Church, certainly never go to the Church; if they did, they might find ways to give their Money to better hands.

In ſhort, the Obſervations on this moſt prepoſterous piece of Church-Work, are ſo many, they cannot come into the Compaſs of this Paper, ——— But if the Money rais'd here be Employ'd, to re-edifie this Chappel; I would have it, as is very frequent in like Caſes, written over the Door in CAPITAL LETTERS.

This Church was Re-edify'd, Anno, 1706. *at the Expence, and by the Charitable Contribution of the Enemies of the Reformation of our Morals, and to the Eternal Scandal, and moſt juſt Reproach of the Church of* England, *and the Proteſtant Religion*,

Witneſs our Hands,

Lucifer *Prince of Darkneſs*, AND *Hamlet* Prince of *Denmark*. } *Church Wa.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

In a few Days will be Publiſh'd,

A New Deſcription of the World, delineating *Europe*, *Aſia*, *Africa*, and *America*; with a Map and Tables of the Empires, Kingdoms, Provinces, and Cities therein, together with a Chronological and Hiſtorical

Historical Account of the Emperors, Kings, Princes, Governments, Religion, Languages, Customs, Commodities, Revolutions, and Rarities thereof. By *H. Curson*, Gent.

Tuesday last was Publish'd,

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DE Laune's Plea for the Non-Conformists: Shewing the true State of their Case, and how far the Conformist's Separation from the Church of *Rome* for their Popish Superstitions, &c. introduced into the Service of God, justifies the Non-Conformist's Separation from them. In a Letter to Dr. *Benjamin Calamy*, on his Sermon called, Scrupulous Conscience, inviting hereto. To which is added, A Parallel Scheme of the Pagan, Papal, and Christian Rites and Ceremonies. With a Narrative of the Sufferings underwent for Writing, Printing and Publishing hereof. By *Thomas Delaune*, who died in Newgate during his Imprisonment for this Book: Printed twenty Years ago; but being seiz'd by the Messenger of the Press, was afterwards burnt by the Hangman: And now re-printed from the Author-original Copy. With a Preface by the Author of the Review. *London*, Printed for, and Sold by *William* and *Joseph Marshal*, at the Bible in *Newgate-street*. 1706.

Just publish'd,

A Geographical and Historical Account of the Principality of *Catalonia*, and Earldom of *Barcelona*. Containing the Description of that Country and City, and of all other Places of Note, and its Principal Rivers the Succession of its Princes, and all Notable Revolutions from the first Ages, to this present time.

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